

S. fumosa in its highly cautious approach to the dead spider. Future observations may extend the list of species of Lonchaeidae exhibiting this behaviour, and throw some light on its consistency of occurrence.

I would like to thank Peter Chandler for kindly identifying the Lonchaeidae, and Frances Murphy for identifying the spider.

REFERENCE

- Irwin, A. G. 1978. Spiders (Araneae). In: *A Dipterists handbook*. Eds A. Stubbs & P. Chandler. Amateur Entomologists' Society.

SHORT COMMUNICATION

***Icteric westermanni* (Meig.) (Diptera: Tephritidae) new to Gloucestershire, and other records.**—A single specimen of this nationally rare fly was found by Roger Gaunt at Whelford Pools Nature Reserve (SU 174996) during an invertebrate field meeting of the Gloucestershire Naturalist's Society, 7.ix.1991. Following this find, one of us (R.G.) searched the stands of ragwort for further specimens and found many more individuals. There is clearly a thriving population of the species on the reserve—an area of flooded gravel workings in the Fairford section of the Cotswold Water Park.

The distribution of this fly has recently been reviewed by Falk (1991): south-east England from Kent to Hampshire and as far north as Cambridgeshire and Norfolk. Specimens have also, however, been taken in Oxfordshire and Wiltshire by one of us (R.G.) earlier in the same year. The Gloucestershire record therefore is the furthest of these 1991 records from the published distribution. Details of the other records are as follows: Shrivenham, Oxon (SU 246877), nine swept from ragwort growing on waste ground near an operational railway line, 19.viii.1991, and Swindon, N. Wilts. (SU 142833), a disused sand-pit produced 2 on 4.viii. and 5 on 22.viii.1991.

Records of this fly were formerly sufficiently sparse for it to be listed in the British Red Data Book (Shirt, 1987), but Falk has revised its status to 'nationally notable'. Whether the recent increase in records is due to an expansion in the range of this species or just to increased interest in the family following the publication of the RESL Handbook (White, 1988) and the initiation of a national recording scheme is not clear. The new records reported here are from a part of central southern England notoriously under-recorded in the past.

We would like to record our thanks to the Gloucestershire Trust for Nature Conservation for permission to record at Whelford Pools.—R. Gabriel, 11 Tudor Walk, Walcot, Swindon, Wiltshire SN3 3DP, and K. N. A. Alexander, 22 Cecily Hill, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 2EF.

REFERENCES

- Falk, S. 1991. A review of the scarce and threatened flies of Great Britain (Part 1). Research & Survey in Nature Conservation, No. 39. Nature Conservancy Council, Peterborough.
- Shirt, D. B. (ed.) 1987. *British red data books: 2. Insects*. Nature Conservancy Council, Peterborough.
- White, I. M. 1988. *Tephritid Flies. Diptera: Tephritidae. Handbk Ident. Br. Insects 10(5a)*. Royal Entomological Society of London.